



LOUISIANA SENATE

For Immediate Release

10.27.17

Contact: Sen. Hewitt
St. Tammany (985.646.6490)/St. Bernard (504.278.6530)
hewitts@legis.la.gov

SEN. HEWITT JOINS NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD LISTENING SESSION ON STEM EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL WORKFORCE ISSUES

PROMOTES LOUISIANA'S INCREASED FOCUS ON STEM EDUCATION

District 1 State Senator Sharon Hewitt (R- Slidell) joined National Science Board (NSB) representatives and other stakeholders at a special listening session held recently at Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) to talk science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce needs. The BRCC session, along with a concurrent event at Xavier University in New Orleans, focused on hearing from local stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities facing the skilled technical workforce and underrepresented minorities and women in STEM fields.



“I was honored to have the opportunity to talk about Louisiana’s strategic new focus on STEM education and related workforce needs in the technology sector with representatives from the prestigious National Science Board,” Sen. Hewitt, who authored the legislation that created the LaSTEM Advisory Council, said. “It is more important than ever to give our citizens every opportunity to equip themselves with the skills they need to not only compete in the workplace but to also better understand and appreciate

evolving technology that is now an integral part of our daily lives.”

The STEM Advisory Council is charged with the responsibility of creating, delivering and promoting STEM education programs and aligning those programs with industry and workforce needs. The legislation creating the council also establishes a STEM Education Fund to receive state dollars or

private donations for the STEM education effort and requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish a STEM diploma endorsement for high achieving STEM students.

The National Science Board, whose members represent a variety of science and engineering disciplines, is an independent federal agency that supports research and education across all fields of science and engineering. The board also advises the President and Congress on STEM education and related workforce training. NSB Chair Maria Zuber led the Baton Rouge discussion.

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